

## **NEWS FROM THE MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

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Contact: Pat Murdo, State-Tribal Relations Committee Staff, 406-444-3594

Gayle Shirley, Legislative Information Officer, 406-444-2957

### **Tribal Members, Lawmakers to Discuss Range of Issues**

The State-Tribal Relations Committee of the Montana Legislature has invited tribal members to a Jan. 16-17 meeting in Helena to discuss issues of concern to the tribes and how state laws can best address them.

Among the issues to be discussed are:

- Water compacts with tribes,
- Medicaid eligibility and foster-care agreements,
- Jurisdictional concerns regarding parole and probation on reservations,
- Indian education and dropout rates,
- The status of gambling compacts on reservations,
- Various school-to-work programs,
- Welfare assistance,
- Law enforcement treatment of Indians,
- Economic development on or near reservations, and
- Options for recognizing Indian-made arts and crafts that are sold in Montana.

The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 16 and at 8 a.m. Jan. 17 in Room 102 of the State Capitol. Tribal Council members from the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes, Fort Peck Tribes, Rocky Boy Tribes, and Crow Nation have indicated that they will attend. Other tribal officials also have been invited and may attend.

The State-Tribal Relations Committee meets during the interims between legislative sessions. Members are Sens. Rick Laible, Darby; Frank Smith, Poplar; Donald Steinbeisser, Sidney; Joe Tropila, Great Falls; and Reps. Gordon Hendrick, Superior; Joey Jayne, Arlee; Ken Peterson, Billings; and Jonathan Windy Boy, Box Elder.

For more information, including an agenda, visit [www.leg.mt.gov/calendar.htm](http://www.leg.mt.gov/calendar.htm) or call Pat Murdo, legislative staffer for the committee, at 406-444-3594.